Dairy Production

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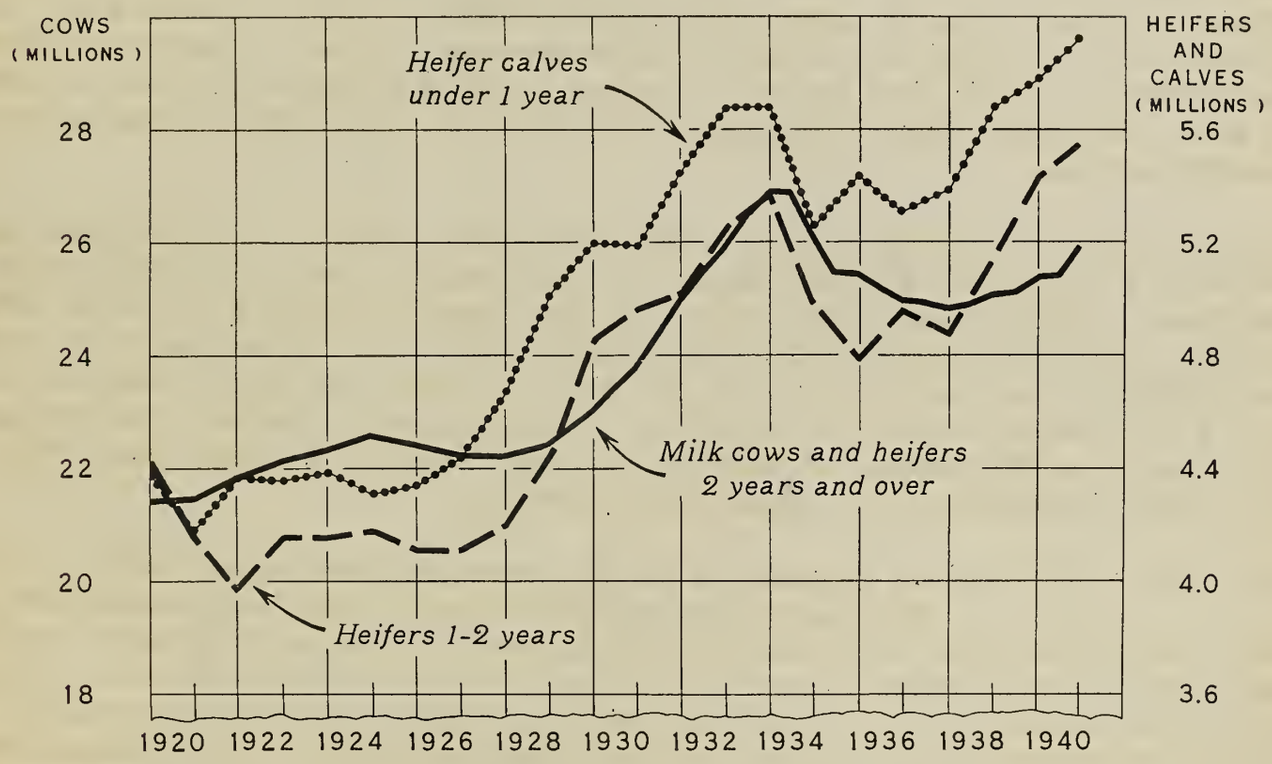
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

No. 10 A.M.S. FEBRUARY 17, 1941

MILK COWS, ALSO HEIFERS AND CALVES BEING KEPT FOR MILK COWS

NUMBERS ON FARMS JANUARY 1, 1920-41

(WITH SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES OF MILK COWS, JUNE 1, 1930-40)



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 356 AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

The number of milk cows has turned sharply upward in recent months. The number has now started to rise above average in proportion to the population, and a record number of heifers will be added to milking herds this year. The number of heifer calves being kept for milk cows also appears abnormally high. Some of the causes and effects of these changes are explained on page 10.

The production of milk and dairy products climbed into new ground in January, the Agricultural Marketing Service reports. Compared with output in January last year, the estimates show these outstanding increases--milk 5.7 percent, creamery butter 7.7, American cheese 15.9, and principal manufactured dairy products together, nearly 9 percent

January milk production is estimated at 8,416 million pounds. This is between 12 and 13 percent above the 5-year average for January and even higher than the average for March. The heavy production was shared by practically all parts of the country and it apparently resulted chiefly from an increased number of cows, extra-liberal feeding and continued mild weather. Compared with January last year, the number of milk cows was up about 2 percent, the quantity of concentrates fed per cow was probably up at least 2 percent and January temperatures in producing areas averaged 3 to 4 degrees above normal in contrast to about 7 degrees below normal last year.

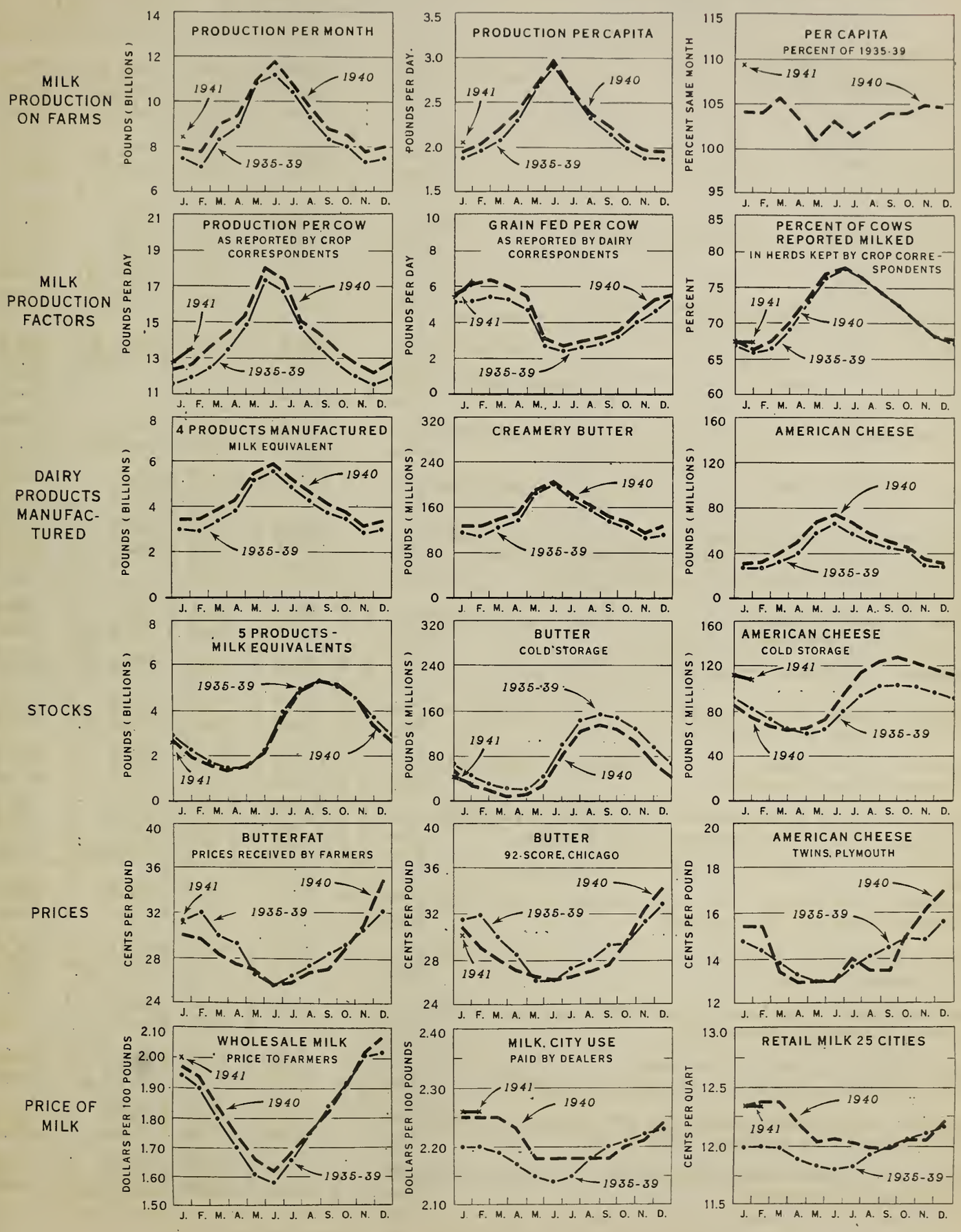
Production as much above normal for the season as occurred in January has seldom continued long, partially because conditions favorable for heavy feeding have soon been undermined by increases in supplies of dairy products in storage. Production in January was so heavy that the movement of dairy products out of storage was only a little more than half the average volume. Commercial stocks of dairy products, which were about 7 percent above the 5-year average on January 1, were about 26 percent above average on February 1. Holdings of cheese are particularly heavy.

Due in part to government purchases of butter, prices of principal dairy products have held fairly steady during the past month except for the 1 cent drop in cheese. Prices are mostly close to the 5-year averages for this season of the year. In mid-February prices being received for milk and butterfat appear about as favorable in comparison with the combined value of hay, grain and feedstuffs as at the same season in any of the past 5 years. However, the recent sharp increases in the prices of cattle, hogs and sheep, if maintained, will tend to lessen the pressure to expand dairy herds.

GRAIN FED PER MILK COW: On February 1 dairy correspondents were feeding their cows less than 1 percent more grain and concentrates per head than at the same time last year but from 5 to 44 percent more than on the same date in other years since 1931, when the records were started. Crop correspondents, a larger group and more representative of average producers, were feeding 2.6 percent more than a year ago and only a fraction of 1 percent fewer pounds than in February 1932 when they were feeding freely with 20-cent corn, but feeding much of it without grinding. In February this year they were feeding a better balanced ration and probably a better quality of hay than in 1932 and they were obtaining 6 percent more milk per pound of concentrates fed.

Reports from crop correspondents in New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Missouri, North Dakota, and a few scattered States in other parts of the country, showed rates of feeding on February 1 as high or higher than on that date in any of the past 9 years for which records are available. On the other hand, in a number of Corn Belt and Southwestern States the rate of feeding was lower than in some of the depression years, and in Ohio and Indiana, where drought last summer reduced feed production, the rate of feeding was below the average for February 1, as shown by the table on page 5.

DAIRY PRODUCTION: GRAPHIC SUMMARY FOR THE UNITED STATES



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

Dairy Production — February 17, 1941

SUMMARY OF DAIRY STATISTICS FOR THE UNITED STATES

			Average 1934-38 or 1935-39	1939 or 1940	1940 or 1941 Total or Av.	1940 or 1941 Percent of Prev. year
MILK PRODUCTION ON FARMS						
Total, per month	mil.lb.	Nov.	7,227	7,556	7,830 a/	103.6
		Dec.	7,383	7,816	8,051 a/	103.0
		Jan.	7,480	7,961	8,416 a/	105.7
Per capita, daily average	lb.	Dec.	1,847	1,915	1,958 a/	102.2
		Jan.	1,871	1,949	2,046 a/	105.0
Per cow, per day (As reported by crop correspondents)	lb.	Dec.1	11.29	12.09	12.17	100.7
		Jan.1	11.59	12.43	12.78	102.8
		Feb.1	11.97	12.65	13.46	106.4
GRAIN FED PER COW (As reported by dairy correspondents)	lb.	Jan.1	5.11	5.51	5.50 c/	99.8
		Feb.1	5.24	6.13	6.18 c/	100.8
PRODUCTION OF MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS						
Creamery butter, monthly	mil.lb.	Dec.	110.8	117.0	124.5 b/	106.4
		Jan.	114.0	127.7	137.5 bd/	107.7
weekly	week ending	Jan.30	-	-	-	102.7
		Feb. 6	-	-	-	105.6
American cheese	mil.lb.	Dec.	26.7	30.6	33.6	109.8
		Jan.	27.9	30.8	35.7 ad/	115.9
Evaporated milk, case	mil.lb.	Nov.	102.3	123.7	133.6	108.0
		Dec.	105.7	139.8	150.9	107.9
4 products, milk equivalent (Creamery butter x 21, all cheese except skim x 10, canned cond. & evap. milk x 2.2)	mil.lb.	Nov.	2,912	3,047	3,224	105.8
		Dec.	2,943	3,199	3,426	107.1
		Jan.	3,060	3,466	-	108.8 c/
STOCKS ON HAND						
Butter in cold storage (Including government holdings)	mil.lb.	Jan. 1	64.0	55.5	41.5	74.8
		Feb. 1	45.1	29.2	29.9 a/	102.4
Commercial holdings, only		Feb. 1	27.2	24.5	29.8 a/	121.6
American cheese (Cold storage holdings)	mil.lb.	Jan. 1	92.7	86.8	112.2	129.3
		Feb. 1	81.6	75.2	107.9 a/	143.5
Evaporated milk, case (Manufacturers' stocks)	mil.lb.	Dec. 1	215.2	188.3	226.3	120.2
		Jan. 1	175.1	186.1	187.7	100.9
5 products, milk equivalent (Butter, all cheese, canned cond. & evap. milk plus cream in cold storage)	mil.lb.	Dec. 1	3,709	3,533	3,429	97.1
		Jan. 1	2,909	2,748	2,678	97.5
		Feb. 1	2,255	1,970	2,368 cd/	120.2
PRICES						
Butterfat, per pound (Prices received by farmers)	ct.	Dec.15	32.0	28.5	34.8	122.1
		Jan.15	31.4	30.0	31.1	103.7
Butter, wholesale, per pound (92 score, Chicago)	ct.	Jan.	31.47	30.76	30.11	97.9
		Feb.	31.91	30.03	30.00 e/	103.3
American cheese, wholesale, per pound (Twins, Plymouth, Wisconsin)	ct.	Jan.15	14.80	15.50	15.50	100.0
		Feb.15	14.35	15.50	14.50	93.5
Milk, wholesale, per 100 pounds (All purposes, prices received by farmers)	dol.	Dec.15	1.98	2.00	2.07	103.5
		Jan.15	1.94	1.99	2.00 a/	100.5
Milk for city distribution, per 100 pounds (Prices paid by dealers, 3.5% basis)	dol.	Jan.	2.20	2.25	2.26	100.4
		Feb.	2.20	2.25	2.26	100.4
Milk, retail, delivered, per quart (Average, 25 markets)	ct.	Jan.	11.99	12.34	12.33	99.9
		Feb.	12.00	12.38	12.33 a/	99.6

a/ Preliminary. b/ Preliminary revision. c/ Forecast or interpolation.
d/ Not available when accompanying chart was prepared. e/ Price February 14.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
CROP REPORTING BOARD
WASHINGTON, D. C. February 17, 1941

"GRAIN" FED AND MILK PRODUCED PER MILK COW IN HERDS KEPT BY REPORTERS 1/

State	"Grain" Fed per Milk Cow 2/			Milk Produced per Milk Cow 3/			
	Feb. 1 Av. 1935-39	Feb. 1 1940	Feb. 1 1941	Feb. 1 Av. 1930-39	Feb. 1 1939	Feb. 1 1940	Feb. 1 1941
	Pounds			Pounds			
Me.	4.4	4.8	4.6	12.6	11.8	13.0	12.7
N.H.	4.4	4.5	4.8	14.8	14.6	14.6	14.7
Vt.	4.4	4.4	4.5	13.5	13.6	13.1	13.9
Mass.	6.2	6.4	6.4	17.3	17.2	17.3	18.6
Conn.	5.5	6.4	5.9	17.0	17.3	16.8	17.3
N. Y.	5.0	5.4	5.7	15.1	15.6	16.4	16.6
N. J.	7.8	7.7	7.9	19.0	19.2	18.9	19.2
Pa.	6.1	6.5	6.7	15.8	16.3	16.2	16.4
N. ATL.	5.4	5.7	5.8	15.59	16.09	16.12	16.50
Ohio	5.9	6.4	6.0	14.0	14.2	14.2	14.4
Ind.	5.8	5.9	5.4	12.6	12.8	12.8	13.4
Ill.	5.9	7.0	7.1	13.8	14.5	14.0	16.0
Mich.	4.9	5.7	6.0	15.9	16.4	16.7	17.2
Wis.	3.9	4.8	5.1	15.2	15.2	15.4	16.4
E.N.CENT.	5.0	5.8	5.8	14.50	14.76	14.78	15.77
Minn.	4.1	5.2	5.5	15.8	17.2	17.2	18.4
Iowa	5.9	7.3	7.0	13.5	14.1	14.4	15.3
Mo.	4.0	5.0	5.3	8.0	8.8	8.6	8.6
N.Dak.	2.7	3.9	4.3	10.8	11.9	12.3	13.4
S.Dak.	2.7	3.1	3.2	10.6	11.5	12.1	11.0
Nebr.	3.2	4.0	4.3	12.2	13.7	12.2	12.9
Kans.	3.5	4.4	5.0	12.5	13.5	12.4	13.9
W.N.CENT.	4.1	5.2	5.4	12.22	13.32	13.03	14.02
Md.	5.8	6.6	6.4	13.5	14.4	15.2	15.0
Va.	4.6	4.8	4.8	9.5	10.6	9.7	9.7
W.Va.	3.6	3.8	3.7	8.5	8.4	8.2	9.0
N.C.	4.7	4.7	4.8	9.7	10.5	10.5	10.6
S.C.	3.8	4.2	3.6	9.2	9.8	8.9	9.7
Ga.	3.1	3.5	4.5	8.0	8.4	7.7	8.5
S.ATL.	4.2	4.7	4.9	9.63	10.34	9.99	10.66
Ky.	5.7	5.8	5.9	8.8	9.7	8.7	9.5
Tenn.	4.6	5.0	4.7	8.0	8.2	8.3	8.5
Miss.	3.4	3.4	3.3	6.0	5.7	5.3	5.7
Ark.	3.4	3.7	4.1	6.7	6.8	6.5	7.5
Okla.	3.1	4.2	4.5	9.2	10.4	8.4	9.4
Tex.	3.2	3.8	4.0	8.0	8.3	7.0	8.0
S.CENT.	3.7	4.2	4.3	7.84	8.28	7.47	8.29
Mont.	3.0	2.7	4.7	11.3	13.4	12.3	12.4
Idaho	2.4	2.3	2.6	15.2	15.4	16.0	15.7
Wyo.	2.0	2.2	2.5	11.0	11.4	11.8	12.5
Colo.	2.9	3.2	3.4	12.3	13.4	13.6	13.9
Wash.	4.5	4.0	4.0	15.4	15.6	14.3	15.7
Oreg.	3.6	3.6	3.7	13.2	13.9	13.6	14.1
Calif.	2.9	3.9	3.4	16.4	16.7	17.3	17.0
WEST.	3.1	3.4	3.6	13.73	14.42	14.36	14.95
U.S.	4.32	5.00	5.13	12.29	12.93	12.65	13.46

1/ Figures for New England States are based on combined returns from crop and special dairy reporters (milk per cow weighted by counties). Figures for other States, regions, and U.S. are based on returns from crop reporters only. The regional averages are based in part on records of less important dairy States not shown separately, as follows: North Atlantic, Rhode Island; South Atlantic, Delaware and Florida; South Central, Alabama and Louisiana; Western, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Nevada.

2/ Averages per cow computed from answers to question, "How many pounds of grain (including mill feeds and concentrates) were fed yesterday to milk cows on your farm (or ranch)?"

3/ Averages represent the reported daily milk production of herds kept by reporters divided by the total number of milk cows (in milk or dry) in these herds.

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ANNUAL MILK PRODUCTION IN 1940

Milk production on farms in 1940, estimated at 111.1 billion pounds, exceeded that in 1939 by 2.3 percent and represents a record high per capita production in the 17-year period for which records are available. Milk production per cow, favored by the third best pasture season of the decade and by liberal feeding of abundant grain and concentrate supplies, was well above average in all months, and for the year averaged 4,575 pounds or 532 gallons, less than 1 gallon per cow below the 1929 record. The average number of milk cows on farms during the year, estimated at 24.3 million head was the largest since 1935, but still was some 4 percent short of the record number of 1934. The 1939 and 1940 estimates for the various States as given on page 7 show that, outside of the Cotton Belt, increases in the number of milk cows, in production per cow, and in total milk production were rather general, the chief exceptions being scattered states where crops and pastures suffered from drought or where interest has shifted to beef cattle. Increases in production were substantial in some of the States recovering from former droughts and were around 6 or 7 percent in a number of the intensive dairy States, including Vermont, New York, Wisconsin and Idaho. In the South milk production increased in the dairy area extending from Virginia northeastward and appears to have been maintained in Texas but in most other States production was lower in 1940 than in 1939. Most of the decreases in the South appear to have been due to the severe winter, poor pastures and local shortages of feed prior to the harvesting of the 1940 crops but in some of the States the number of beef cattle is increasing.

COWS AND YOUNG STOCK ON JANUARY 1

Estimates of the inventory numbers of milk cows and heifers 2 years old or older on farms January 1 and estimates of heifers and heifer calves being saved for milk cows are shown on pages 8 and 9. These estimates show that during 1940 the number of milk cows increased in all except a few States. Comparison of the numbers of milk cows and young stock in the various parts of the country shows that the number of dairy heifers and calves is particularly large in relation to normal replacement requirements in the main producing section that extends from Minnesota eastward into Ohio. The number of calves is also large in some States where farmers are trying to build up herds that had to be greatly reduced during the droughts, and in some other States where dairy herds are being increased.

The inventory estimates of cows and heifers two years old or older kept for milk on farms January 1 should not be confused with the estimates of the average number of milk cows of producing age on farms during each year. The latter, shown on page 7, are used for estimating the annual production of milk in each State. While based on the inventory numbers at the beginning and end of each year they are lower because they exclude heifers that are two years old but not yet in production. They also differ slightly because of changes in numbers of cows during each year as a result of seasonal variations, changes in feed supplies and other factors.

MILK PRODUCTION PER COW FEBRUARY 1

Milk production per cow on February 1, as reported by crop correspondents was the highest on record for that date. Although also the highest on record a month earlier the reported production showed slightly more than the usual increase during January. On February 1, milk production was still above previous records for that season in all groups of States except the South Atlantic and South Central and even in those areas it was higher than in other years since the depression. For the country as a whole the February 1 production per cow reported by crop correspondents averaged 13.46 pounds this year compared with 12.65 pounds last year and a 1930-39 average of 12.29 pounds.

MILK COWS AND MILK PRODUCTION ON FARMS, BY STATES, 1939-40

State	Number of milk cows on farms during year 1/		Annual milk production per cow 2/		Milk produced on farms during year 2/		
	1939	1940 3/	1939	1940 3/	1939	1940 3/	1940 as % of 1939
	Thousands		Pounds		Million pounds		
Me.	140	140	4,660	4,730	652	669	103
N. H.	74	74	4,780	4,900	354	363	103
Vt.	287	290	4,850	5,100	1,392	1,479	106
Mass.	137	137	5,870	5,980	804	819	102
R. I.	23	23	6,300	6,450	145	148	102
Conn.	124	124	5,810	5,780	720	717	100
N. Y.	1,355	1,376	5,509	5,730	7,465	7,884	106
N. J.	140	144	6,490	6,510	909	937	103
Pa.	882	893	5,240	5,350	4,622	4,778	103
N. ATL.	3,162	3,201	5,396	5,559	17,063	17,794	104.3
Ohio	1,004	1,010	4,570	4,570	4,588	4,616	101
Ind.	743	755	4,330	4,350	3,217	3,284	102
Ill.	1,080	1,095	4,840	4,890	5,227	5,355	102
Mich.	886	903	5,350	5,450	4,740	4,921	104
Wis.	2,108	2,165	5,680	5,850	11,973	12,665	106
E. N. CENT.	5,821	5,928	5,110	5,203	29,745	30,841	103.7
Minn.	1,600	1,632	5,100	5,150	8,160	8,405	103
Iowa	1,393	1,410	4,680	4,780	6,519	6,740	103
Mo.	933	950	3,700	3,750	3,452	3,562	103
N. Dak.	508	528	4,070	4,330	2,068	2,286	111
S. Dak.	476	490	3,750	3,830	1,785	1,877	105
Nebr.	620	635	4,400	4,280	2,728	2,718	100
Kans.	743	750	4,200	4,040	3,121	3,030	97
W. N. CENT.	6,273	6,395	4,437	4,475	27,833	28,618	102.8
Del.	34	34	4,200	4,240	143	144	101
Md.	191	195	4,580	4,580	875	893	102
Va.	405	417	3,580	3,640	1,450	1,518	105
W. Va.	238	238	3,530	3,460	840	823	98
N. C.	369	369	3,900	3,870	1,439	1,428	99
S. C.	164	164	3,550	3,520	582	577	99
Ga.	362	358	3,380	3,200	1,224	1,146	94
Fla.	98	99	2,850	2,770	279	274	98
S. ATL.	1,861	1,874	3,671	3,630	6,832	6,803	99.6
Ky.	521	521	3,520	3,500	1,833	1,824	97
Tenn.	553	564	3,500	3,360	1,936	1,895	98
Ala.	390	392	3,320	3,150	1,295	1,235	95
Miss.	522	514	2,630	2,450	1,373	1,259	92
Ark.	430	438	3,110	3,040	1,337	1,332	100
La.	280	282	2,240	2,180	627	615	98
Okla.	687	700	3,620	3,380	2,487	2,336	95
Tex.	1,342	1,342	3,150	3,150	4,227	4,227	100
S. CENT.	4,725	4,753	3,210	3,104	15,168	14,753	97.3
Mont.	146	154	4,770	4,630	696	713	102
Idaho	194	205	5,780	5,850	1,121	1,199	107
Wyo.	64	65	4,320	4,450	276	289	105
Colo.	230	232	4,640	4,660	1,067	1,081	101
N. Mex.	73	75	3,670	3,700	268	278	104
Ariz.	44	44	5,230	5,230	230	230	100
Utah	96	96	5,600	5,660	538	543	101
Nev.	20	20	5,670	5,550	113	111	98
Wash.	328	335	6,100	6,100	2,001	2,044	102
Oreg.	248	248	5,500	5,620	1,364	1,394	102
Calif.	638	651	6,650	6,730	4,243	4,381	103
WEST.	2,081	2,125	5,727	5,771	11,917	12,263	102.9
U. S.	23,923	24,276	4,538	4,575	108,558	111,072	102.3

1/ Average number on farms during year, heifers that have not freshened excluded.

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves and milk produced by cows not on farms.

3/ Preliminary.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 17, 1941

COWS AND HEIFERS 2 YEARS OLD AND OVER KEPT FOR MILK ON FARMS JANUARY 1

State and Div.	Number: Average 1930-39	Number: 1940	Number: 1941 (Prelim.)	Number: % 1940	Farm Value: Value per head 1/: Average 1930-39	Farm Value: Value per head 1/: 1940	Farm Value: Value per head 1/: 1941	Farm Value: Total value: Average 1930-39	Farm Value: Total value: 1940	Farm Value: Total value: 1941
	Thousands			Pct.	Dollars			Thousand dollars		
Maine	148	144	145	101	55.00	57.00	57.00	8,067	8,208	8,265
N.H.	82	79	80	101	68.00	75.00	75.00	5,538	5,925	6,000
Vt.	2294	308	314	102	63.00	67.00	68.00	18,501	20,636	21,352
Mass.	136	141	142	101	89.00	88.00	94.00	12,092	12,408	13,348
R.I.	22	24	24	100	95.00	91.00	98.00	2,082	2,184	2,352
Conn.	120	130	131	101	89.00	90.00	93.00	10,652	11,700	12,183
N.Y.	1,382	1,437	1,466	102	74.00	78.00	85.00	102,476	112,086	124,610
N.J.	131	148	154	104	104.00	120.00	120.00	13,670	17,760	18,480
Pa.	882	914	923	101	68.00	76.00	80.00	59,372	69,464	73,840
N.ATL.	3,197	3,325	3,379	102	73.04	78.31	82.99	232,448	260,371	280,430
Ohio	1,019	1,043	1,064	102	50.00	58.00	61.00	50,878	60,494	64,904
Ind.	770	774	797	103	47.00	58.00	61.00	35,823	44,892	48,617
Ill.	1,139	1,145	1,168	102	52.00	63.00	66.00	58,246	72,135	77,088
Mich.	881	932	960	103	55.00	65.00	69.00	47,656	60,580	66,240
Wis.	2,141	2,244	2,289	102	57.00	71.00	77.00	120,366	159,324	176,253
E.N.C.	5,950	6,138	6,278	102	53.14	64.75	68.99	312,969	397,425	433,102
Minn.	1,716	1,722	1,756	102	47.00	61.00	64.00	78,677	105,042	112,384
Iowa	1,496	1,487	1,502	101	48.00	62.00	66.00	71,369	92,194	99,132
Mo.	1,002	954	992	104	38.00	49.00	50.00	37,225	46,746	49,600
N.Dak.	588	549	576	105	41.00	55.00	59.00	23,277	30,195	33,984
S.Dak.	578	523	544	104	42.00	56.00	60.00	23,671	29,288	32,640
Nebr.	710	662	674	102	45.00	59.00	61.00	31,274	39,058	41,114
Kans.	843	773	796	103	41.00	54.00	58.00	33,414	41,742	46,168
W.N.C.	6,933	6,670	6,840	103	43.91	57.61	60.68	298,907	384,265	415,022
Del.	35	36	37	103	62.00	68.00	72.00	2,130	2,448	2,664
Md.	189	202	208	103	58.00	61.00	70.00	10,878	12,322	14,560
Va.	404	437	446	102	41.00	47.00	51.00	16,341	20,539	22,746
W.Va.	245	251	251	100	41.00	46.00	47.00	9,878	11,546	11,797
N.C.	358	377	385	102	39.00	42.00	44.00	13,562	15,834	16,940
S.C.	177	176	178	101	36.00	40.00	40.00	6,282	7,040	7,120
Ga.	384	394	386	98	29.00	35.00	37.00	10,853	13,790	14,282
Fla.	105	110	117	106	38.00	39.00	44.00	3,983	4,290	5,148
S.ATL.	1,896	1,983	2,008	101	39.49	44.28	47.44	73,906	87,809	95,257
Ky.	557	540	545	101	36.00	45.00	45.00	19,707	24,300	24,525
Tenn.	548	578	590	102	33.00	42.00	42.00	17,718	24,276	24,780
Ala.	424	423	431	102	28.00	35.00	36.00	11,550	14,805	15,516
Miss.	540	566	555	98	25.00	32.00	32.00	13,296	18,112	17,760
Ark.	458	472	486	103	26.00	35.00	36.00	11,705	16,520	17,496
La.	288	320	320	100	31.00	36.00	37.00	8,803	11,520	11,840
Okla.	740	727	756	104	32.00	42.00	45.00	22,790	30,534	34,020
Tex.	1,368	1,443	1,457	101	31.00	38.00	41.00	41.572	54,834	59,737
S.CENT.	4,924	5,069	5,140	101	30.45	38.45	40.01	147,141	194,901	205,674
Mont.	188	167	169	101	44.00	61.00	64.00	8,222	10,187	10,816
Idaho	196	206	216	105	48.00	59.00	66.00	9,242	12,154	14,256
Wyo.	72	68	69	101	47.00	58.00	64.00	3,369	3,944	4,416
Colo.	262	245	247	101	42.00	52.00	57.00	10,812	12,740	14,079
N.Mex.	74	79	81	103	40.00	44.00	45.00	2,919	3,476	3,645
Ariz.	46	49	48	98	57.00	61.00	64.00	2,564	2,989	3,072
Utah	106	100	101	101	48.00	57.00	60.00	5,012	5,700	6,060
Nev.	21	21	21	100	57.00	71.00	71.00	1,186	1,491	1,491
Wash.	323	345	359	104	55.00	58.00	64.00	17,395	20,010	22,976
Oreg.	260	258	260	101	49.00	51.00	58.00	12,539	13,158	15,080
Calif.	655	674	701	104	60.00	64.00	74.00	39,293	43,136	51,874
WEST.	2,204	2,212	2,273	103	51.57	58.31	65.04	112,553	128,985	147,765
U.S.	25,104	25,397	25,917	102	47.54	57.24	60.86	1,177,925	1,453,756	1,577,250

1/ Estimated farm price.

mjd

State and Division	HEIFERS 1-2 FOR MILK COWS ON FARMS JANUARY 1			HEIFER CALVES FOR MILK COWS ON FARMS JANUARY 1		
	Average 1930-39	1940	1941 (Prelim.)	Average 1930-39	1940	1941 (Prelim.)
	Thousands			Thousands		
Me.	35	35	35	38	37	36
N.H.	18	18	18	19	18	18
Vt.	56	61	60	57	61	61
Mass.	21	22	21	22	23	23
R.I.	2	2	2	4	3	3
Conn.	20	21	20	21	21	21
N.Y.	246	285	282	257	289	284
N.J.	18	22	23	20	20	19
Pa.	172	206	198	182	198	196
N.ATL.	589	672	659	620	670	661
Ohio	196	229	236	213	246	252
Ind.	145	166	179	154	180	180
Ill.	236	258	268	274	329	336
Mich.	178	211	219	195	231	254
Wis.	401	448	464	428	470	488
Minn.	350	366	380	376	392	419
Iowa	285	295	294	289	313	329
Mo.	184	205	207	208	227	220
N.Dak.	118	122	129	126	134	134
S.Dak.	130	122	135	141	139	145
Nebr.	146	140	143	148	149	155
Kans.	154	145	167	161	168	175
N.CENT.	2,513	2,707	2,821	2,712	2,968	3,087
Del.	5	6	7	6	6	6
Md.	34	39	41	36	41	44
Va.	64	84	85	70	86	93
W.Va.	38	43	42	40	43	42
N.C.	67	76	78	80	80	80
S.C.	37	41	40	40	40	38
Ga.	96	108	112	106	112	110
Fla.	34	39	41	38	41	46
S.ATL.	376	436	446	417	449	459
Ky.	88	104	100	92	100	103
Tenn.	96	109	105	103	106	108
Ala.	122	133	130	129	133	134
Miss.	108	113	106	119	108	112
Ark.	130	134	142	132	150	155
La.	64	74	74	76	81	82
Okla.	163	173	175	200	182	192
Tex.	261	252	257	276	270	256
S.CENT.	1,032	1,093	1,089	1,127	1,130	1,142
Mont.	37	31	31	42	41	43
Idaho	46	46	48	51	50	53
Wyo.	14	12	13	18	17	17
Colo.	56	46	48	65	56	58
N.Mex.	18	18	19	18	19	19
Ariz.	10	11	10	11	11	11
Utah	27	26	26	30	32	32
Nev.	6	6	6	7	7	7
Wash.	76	85	84	78	85	90
Oreg.	59	64	60	53	61	65
Calif.	161	182	185	170	187	185
WEST.	509	527	530	549	566	580
U.S.	5,019	5,434	5,545	5,425	5,783	5,929

gbp

THE NUMBER OF MILK COWS -- PRESENT AND FUTURE

The widespread tendency of farmers to increase the numbers of both dairy and beef cattle is now a factor of major importance to all who are trying to see what lies ahead for dairymen. Estimates of livestock on farms January 1 show 25,917,000 milk cows ("cows and heifers 2 years old and older kept for milk"). This is an increase of 2 percent over the number a year ago compared with a June 1939 to June 1940 increase of 1 percent. About 19.6 milk cows per 100 people are shown compared with 19.2 to 19.4 in the previous 4 Januarys and an average of 19.6 during the last 2 decades.

An unexpectedly large proportion of the calves on hand a year ago are being raised for dairy replacements and the number of heifers 1-2 years old, being kept for milk cows is estimated at 5,445,000. The number of calves now on hand is also large and it is estimated that in all about 5,929,000 heifer calves are now being raised for milk cows. These exceptionally large numbers of heifers and heifer calves indicate that further increases in milk cows may be expected in 1941 and 1942 unless drought or other unfavorable conditions cause drastic culling of dairy herds. The increase in all cattle during 1940 was 4.2 percent. The increases in milk cows and in all cattle are shared by practically all States.

The primary cause of these increases in both beef and dairy cattle is the high price of cattle compared with prices of other things and the large supplies of feed. As in other periods of rising cattle numbers the holding back of cows and heifers to increase the herds tends to reduce the number of cattle marketed and temporarily pushes the price of cattle higher than it would otherwise be. At times during 1940 the price of cattle was higher relative to the price of hogs and also higher relative to the price of hay than in any month during the previous 30 years. Good rains in the range States and the record supply of hay and roughage have also increased the demand for breeding stock. The price of milk cows, which largely determines the number of heifer calves raised for dairy purposes, appears low compared to the price of beef cattle but is still unusually high when compared with the value of the milk, grain, and hay required to raise a calf to milking age. As long as this situation continues dairymen will raise more than the usual proportion of their heifer calves.

Dairymen everywhere will be affected by the current and prospective increase in milk cows but the effects of the increases may be small compared with changes due to weather, pastures, war adjustments, and economic conditions. Other things being equal, a more rapid increase in the number of milk cows than in the population, as is the trend at present, tends to increase milk production per capita and tends to make price relations slightly less favorable for dairymen than would otherwise be expected. The less favorable returns normally result in a gradual shift towards less liberal feeding of concentrates to cows so that production per cow tends to decline after the number of cows per 100 people increases. The adjustment, however, never seems fully complete and it seems to lag half a year or more behind changes in the number of cows. On most dairy farms the adjustment will take the form of feeding a little more hay and less grain and maintaining or increasing production by milking an extra cow or two.

The price of milk cows is also affected by the increase in cattle numbers. The reduction in marketings is helping prices now but will mean increased marketings later on. As in 1917 and 1929, farmers are now able to sell aged cows at prices that are unusually high compared with the value of the feed utilized in raising the grown heifers on hand. This opportunity will disappear when normal culling of beef and dairy herds is resumed.

John B. Shepard